

153

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS IN SUPPORT
OF EFFORTS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO, AND
THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES AND CONCERNED MEM-
BERS OF CIVIC SOCIETY IN MEXICO, TO REFORM MEXICO'S
POLITICAL AND ELECTORAL PROCESSES AND ENSURE
FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

Y 4. F 76/1:C 76/23

Expressing the Sense of the Congress...

MARKUP
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED THIRD CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION
ON
H. CON. RES. 250

JULY 14, 1994

Printed for the use of the Committee on Foreign Affairs



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CONTENTS

WITNESSES

	Page
Markup (no witnesses)	1

APPENDIX

Hon. Robert G. Torricelli, chairman of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, prepared statement	13
---	----

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

H. Con. Res. 250, a copy of as amended	15
H. Con. Res. 250, a translation in Spanish	19

CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 250

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 1994

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 1 p.m., in room 2200, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Robert G. Torricelli (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. TORRICELLI. The committee will please come to order. Welcome to today's session of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere and the question of the Mexican elections and House concurrent resolution 250.

This resolution expresses Congress' support for the efforts by the Government of Mexico and the principal political parties and concerned members of civic society in Mexico, to reform the country's political and electoral processes and ensure free and fair elections.

This resolution was introduced on May 17 by the distinguished Majority Whip, David Bonior, and myself.

The elections in Mexico, scheduled for August 21, will be a defining moment in the history of that country. Mexico's entry into the North American Free Trade Agreement has solidified its claim to be a modern industrial nation.

But the economic modernization of Mexico can only be half complete as long as it has a political system which still does not assure that it is governing by the consent of the governed.

During the past 6 months, Mexico has made significant progress in establishing a foundation for free and fair elections. The Federal electoral board has been strengthened and a high-tech voter registration procedure has been established.

Agreements have been reached to allow Mexican nongovernmental organizations to join the political parties in observing the elections. Access to the media by the opposition has improved somewhat.

However, fears of possible electoral fraud remain strong in Mexico. The largest threat seems to be in the rural areas of the country where a new approach to elections—one that does not simply validate the PRI—has not yet been implemented.

My hope is that the resolution we are considering today will be taken as it is intended, not as a critique, but as an encouraging word from the United States in support of the progress that has been made in Mexico today, and in support of free and fair elections.

During a recent trip to Mexico, many Mexicans complained that I had no right to comment on their domestic affairs. To this I answer that nations struggling with democracy should welcome criticism, taking it as a sign of their strength that they can respond and debate their choices openly.

To eliminate any doubt about my intent, I will offer an en bloc amendment that will remove several clauses from the original resolution that may have been viewed as an effort simply to criticize Mexico for its past abuses of the democratic process.

I have also eliminated a provision from the body of the resolution that calls for full scale international observation of the election. I am satisfied that the current framework under which the U.N. will support impartial Mexican observers will achieve many of the objectives without posing a threat or undue Mexican concern over the notion of national sovereignty.

What we have before us then is a resolution that describes the importance of free and fair elections to the furtherance of a close relationship between the United States and Mexico, and that cites the important progress that has already been made in Mexico.

The resolved portion expresses the support of the Congress for the continued efforts of the Mexican Government, its political parties, and NGO's to assure free and fair elections; urges full implementation of the reforms enumerated in the January agreement for peace, democracy and justice; and endorses the efforts of the U.N. to provide technical assistance to domestic election observers.

This resolution is offered in the spirit of neighbors looking to improve the community in which we all live. I hope my colleagues will support the resolution and work with me to secure its approval by the full House.

With that, I would like to yield to the gentleman of New Jersey, Mr. Smith.

Mr. SMITH. I thank my good friend for yielding. Mr. Chairman, the road leading to Mexico's national elections scheduled for August 21 has taken many twists and turns with significant packages of reforms being passed by the Mexican Government.

President Salinas should certainly be applauded for the commitment he has made over the last 6 years to these historic changes which promise to change the face of the Mexican electoral process.

With the special session of Congress in March of this year, and subsequent changes in May, a wide range of additional notable reforms were enacted and are being implemented.

Some highlights of a few of the reforms made this spring include the participation by citizen counselors on the General Council of the Federal Electoral Institute as well as local electoral councils, the invitations of foreign visitors who will observe the elections alongside domestic, nonpartisan Mexican civilians and party representatives, and the revision of the penal code to address electoral fraud and the use of public resources to advance any political party or candidate.

The subcommittee's action today which I support, and I am very pleased that the Chairman is offering this amendment, and I think the en bloc amendment underscores his and our sense of sensitivity to the Mexican electorate. We recognize the tremendous changes by

offering this language made by the Mexican Government to change the climate for the upcoming elections.

These are really important and historical elections. Not only is the presidency going to be at hand, some 500 deputies will be voted, 96 senators, and a number of local races, and the expectations are that somewhere between 22 to 27 million Mexicans will turn out for this very historic election.

So we want all involved to know that we are very interested. We look forward to a fair election and this resolution helps to underscore our commitment to democracy in Mexico.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Thank you, Mr. Smith. Mr. Ballenger.

Mr. BALLENGER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The movement to democracy in Latin America is no longer the great dream of the century. Victories in the Western Hemisphere from Argentina, Chile, Nicaragua to El Salvador are just a few examples of democracy in action.

Mexico has lead Latin America by reforming its economy, opening its markets, and negotiating NAFTA. Now Mexico is in the process of reforming its political structure. Mexicans want serious electoral reforms. The PRI has proven to be responsive to the demands enough to attract the support of the national action party which is PAN.

To date, Mexico has set campaign spending limits, allowed fair access to the media, installed many other reforms. More importantly, the debate itself followed by the results were serious steps toward political liberalization.

I had the opportunity to travel with Chairman Torricelli to Mexico and Jeophus in May and view firsthand the reforms in this country. I applaud the electoral reforms that Mexico has adopted and trust that these reforms will produce a free and fair election.

My fellow colleagues, the message we send today should be clear. The U.S. Government supports the democratic projects currently underway in Mexico, and as neighbors who share much more than just a border, we must stress the importance of political reform, but we must maintain a strong and supportive relationship.

For justifiable historical reasons, Mexico has always been sensitive to any kind of interference by the big brother in its internal affairs. We also must be sensitive to this.

For this reason, I had reservations about the resolution. While the resolution is well-intentioned, I feel it borders on big brotherism, and does not fully give credit to the efforts by Mexico, a sovereign state, to reform its own political system.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Thank you very much. Ms. Ros-Lehtinen.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a few brief remarks to congratulate you for putting forth this resolution.

Here in this subcommittee, much of our time is concerned with making sure that free and fair elections are held throughout our hemisphere, and I think this resolution that you have put forth is going to strengthen our commitment to ensure that free and fair elections are held throughout our hemisphere, most especially to our closest neighbor to the South, Mexico.

This resolution I think has the support of so many of us because, in spite of what Congressman, my dear friend Congressman

Ballenger's words, I don't think it's big brother as much as it is ensuring that free and fair elections are held because they are so important in our area.

Just 2 days ago, as a matter of fact, we held the second of a series of committee meetings regarding the elections that were held in the Dominican Republic. There were many problems related to that election, and that is no surprise. Those have been going on for many times, yet if we had resolutions like that to make sure that Mexico and all countries have set forth an atmosphere and procedures to ensure that everyone has a free opportunity to vote for the candidate of their choice.

I think that it will certainly make our job on this subcommittee a lot easier, I think that this has been a very fair resolution, and put forth in the spirit of cooperation to make sure that all political parties and all people have a chance to express themselves in the best place that there is in a democracy, and that is in the ballot box.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Thank you very much. There being no further opening comments, the Clerk will report the resolution.

The CLERK. H. Con. Res. 250, expressing the sense of the Congress in support of efforts by the Government of Mexico, and the major political parties and concerned members of civic society in Mexico, to reform Mexico's political and electoral processes and ensure free and fair elections.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Without objection, further reading of the resolution is dispensed with, printed in the record, with full and open amendment at any point.

[The resolution appears in the appendix.]

Mr. TORRICELLI. Members have before them both whereas, resolved clause amendments that the Chair has offered.

[The amendments of Mr. Torricelli follow:]

AMENDMENT TO H. CON. RES. 250
OFFERED BY MR. TORRICELLI

Strike all that precedes the resolved clause and insert the following:

Whereas the United States and Mexico share a common border;

Whereas the people of the United States and the people of Mexico have extensive cultural and historical ties that bind together families and communities across national boundaries;

Whereas a close relationship between the United States and Mexico, based on mutual respect and understanding, is important to the people of both nations;

Whereas the North American Free Trade Agreement, which is designed to increase trade, promote expanded economic activity, and enhance cooperation on issues of mutual interest between the United States and Mexico, entered into force on January 1, 1994;

Whereas the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement presents new opportunities for an even closer relationship between the United States, *Canada*, and Mexico;

Whereas the development of such a relationship will be furthered by free and fair elections in Mexico;

Whereas assertions have surfaced that previous municipal, State, and Federal electoral processes had been inappropriately manipulated;

Whereas civil demonstrations and armed unrest in Mexico have highlighted broad support for electoral reform;

Whereas Mexican leaders from across the political spectrum have recognized the need for political and electoral reform and have taken steps to achieve these goals;

Whereas in January 1994, Mexico's major political parties joined together in an agreement, known as the Agreement for Peace, Democracy, and Justice, designed to reform Mexico's electoral system and to establish procedures for free and fair elections;

Whereas substantial progress has already been made in implementing this accord, including the appointment of nonpartisan directors to the Federal Electoral Institute's General Council, and allowing opposition parties access to voter registration lists and to the polls;

Whereas the Federal Electoral Institute invited the United Nations to provide trainers for Mexican electoral observers and established rules for international visitors;

Whereas the National Civic Alliance was formed as an umbrella group of Mexican nongovernmental organizations for the purpose of monitoring the new electoral system and observing the elections; and

Whereas the spirit of the North American Free Trade Agreement, ^{with its sister cooperation} ~~requires the United States and Mexico to~~ ~~cooperate in achieving high standards of democracy;~~
Now, therefore be it

AMENDMENT TO H. CON. RES. 250
OFFERED BY MR. TORRICELLI

Strike all after the resolved clause and insert the following:

1 That the Congress—

2 (1) expresses its support for efforts of the Government of Mexico, the major political parties, and 3 civil groups ~~such as the National Civic Alliance~~
4 ~~to~~ to reform Mexico's political and electoral 5 processes and to ensure free and fair elections;

6 ^{ENCOURAGES} 7 (2) ~~encourages~~ the Government of Mexico, the major 8 political parties, and concerned members of civic society 9 in Mexico to implement fully in law and in practice, in advance of the August 1994 elections, 10 the reforms enumerated in the Agreement for Peace, 11 Democracy and Justice of January 1994, 12 including—

13 (A) the impartiality and autonomy of electoral 14 authorities at the Federal, State, and local 15 levels;

16 (B) guaranteed fair access to the media;

17 (C) assuring the reliability of the electoral 18 register and voter identification lists; and 19

(D) prohibition of the use of public resources for the benefit of any political party or electoral campaign; and

4 (3) ~~applauds~~ the invitation extended by the Gov-
5 ernment of Mexico, the major political parties, and
6 concerned members of civic society in Mexico, to rep-
7 resentatives of the United Nations to provide tech-
8 nical assistance to domestic Mexican election observ-
9 ers, and encourages representatives of the United
10 Nations to work closely and directly with domestic
11 Mexican observers during the electoral process.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Without objection, these amendments will be considered as the original text for purposes of the amendment.

There being no objection, it is so ordered.

The Chair has been sensitive in drafting this resolution. As Mr. Ballenger has correctly noted, that there is considerable sensitivity in Mexico to whether and how the United States approaches our own commentary in the electoral system in Mexico.

It is now fair to say, however, that the United States has given more attention and held higher standards to a variety of nations around the world, including in our own hemisphere, than we have to the one nation with which we share a border, mounting commerce, and considerable cultural and historic ties.

I believe that to be fair, Mexico should be held to no higher standard, but indeed, it should not be held to a considerably lower standard.

Who is chosen to lead Mexico is entirely the matter of the Mexican people. Whether they get a free and fair opportunity to do so is a legitimate concern of the international community. The right to choose leadership, the consent of the governed, is a basic and fundamental human right.

In this resolution, as I have now amended it, we are trying, in the most considerate way possible, to offer American support for the process of reform that is currently taking place in Mexico, with all due concern for sovereignty of that nation, but recognizing as a free people that we nevertheless do have an obligation to speak to the causes of freedom and the process of democracy around the world. And, no less than in a neighboring country with which we share security, economic, historic and cultural concerns.

With that, having been joined by Mr. Oberstar and Mr. Wynn, let me yield to them, if they would like to make any opening comments. We will then proceed to general comments of the membership of the committee on the resolution as amended.

Mr. Oberstar.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I just compliment you on bringing this issue forward, and join you in the hope that it will result in ensuring continuity of free, fair and democratic election process.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Thank you, Mr. Oberstar. Mr. Wynn?

Mr. WYNN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to commend you for your efforts in that regard, and I too concur that I support a free, fair election and a civil process for the democracy of Mexico. This is a point that we should make.

Thank you.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Thank you very much. Are there members of the committee who would like to be heard on the resolution as amended?

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Chairman.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. Ballenger.

Mr. BALLENGER. Have we accepted your amendment yet?

Mr. TORRICELLI. We have.

Mr. BALLENGER. And is it open for possible offering of a small change?

Mr. TORRICELLI. It is.

Mr. BALLENGER. Yes, sir.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Even large ones. [Laughter.]

Mr. BALLENGER. No, actually, Mr. Chairman, you and I both received from the Mexican news media—

Mr. TORRICELLI. I stand corrected, Mr. Ballenger. What we did is we accepted by amendment as the original text. It still of course must be adopted.

Mr. BALLENGER. Fine. Well, then maybe we better—

Mr. TORRICELLI. No, it is open now for amendment.

Mr. BALLENGER. OK. As you and I both know with the Mexican news media in our trip down there, there is a very I guess natural feeling that the Mexicans feel, I mean, first of all, we took Texas from them, we took California from them, all of this at various and sundry times, and if I were them, I would greatly appreciate any thought that might be given to being less than coercive in anything we do.

I know that if somebody passed a resolution saying that the 10th district of North Carolina is not doing a very good job of running its elections, I think people at the 10th district would be a little bit upset.

What I am offering are basically kind of semantic additions that I might offer to your amendment, say on the resolves. Where it says urges the government—

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. Ballenger, why don't we have the Clerk report the amendment.

Mr. BALLENGER. OK, sure.

The CLERK. Amendment offered by Mr. Ballenger. Amend the last whereas clause by deleting requires the United States and Mexico to cooperate, and insert with facilitates cooperation.

Also in the second resolve clause, delete the word urges and insert the word encourages.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. Ballenger, would you like to proceed with the description?

Mr. BALLENGER. Yes, sir. Basically these are semantic changes that remove a little bit of the coerciveness, if there is such a thing in this resolution, and I am just trying to do my best to help along those lines, if that makes sense to you.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Any other members that desire to be heard on the amendments offered by the gentleman from North Carolina?

Mr. OBERSTAR. Do we have that language here in this package, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. TORRICELLI. You can have mine.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Thank you.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. Smith.

Mr. SMITH. I think the amendment is very helpful. It is a very modest amendment and I think would help just underscore again the spirit of friendship within which the entire resolution is offered, and that we do have an obligation.

I don't think, you know, if there is voter fraud going on in my district and someone else points that out, those who believe in fair and free elections don't take that in a negative way. They would be glad that somebody has the integrity to point that out.

I think that those of us who believe that democracy is the greatest hope for a higher quality of life, for the preservation of human rights for all people, feel that the process itself has to be above reproach, and this resolution is very sympathetic to that notable aim,

and I think the resolution ought to pass, and Mr. Ballenger's amendment is a very helpful addition to it.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Other members desiring to be heard?

[No response.]

Mr. TORRICELLI. If not, the question occurs on the amendment from the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Ballenger.

Who is in favor, aye?

[Chorus of ayes.]

Mr. TORRICELLI. Opposed, nay?

[No response.]

Mr. TORRICELLI. The amendment is adopted. Any further amendments to be offered to the resolution?

[No response.]

Mr. TORRICELLI. There being no further amendments, any further discussion on the substitute resolution offered by the Chair?

Mr. BALLENGER. I would hope that the word could go back to the people in Mexico, the government in Mexico, that we are sympathetic to the cause, and we are recognizing that they have done a great deal in organizing for the coming election.

I have never seen better preparation that both you and I saw. It doesn't guarantee an honest election, but they have gone far and away further than most any government I have seen in this country in trying to do this, and I realize that having had at least 40 or 50 years of one party control, it's going to be very difficult to have a super clean election, but I hope they will accept the fact that all we are trying to do is encourage them to make it as clean as possible.

With that, I will conclude.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Any further discussion? If not, the question occurs on the substitute amendment, as amended. The Clerk will call the roll.

The CLERK. Mr. Torricelli.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Aye.

The CLERK. Mr. Menendez.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Trust us, trust us.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Is that right?

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. Menendez passes for the moment.

The CLERK. Mr. Oberstar.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Aye.

The CLERK. Mr. McKinney.

[No response]

The CLERK. Mr. Deutsch.

[No response]

The CLERK. Mr. Wynn.

Mr. WYNN. Aye.

The CLERK. Mr. Menendez.

[No response]

The CLERK. Mr. Smith.

Mr. SMITH. Aye.

The CLERK. Ms. Ros-Lehtinen.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Aye.

The CLERK. Mr. Ballenger.

Mr. BALLENGER. Aye.

The CLERK. Mr. Gallegly.

[No response]

The CLERK. Mr. Menendez.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Aye.

Mr. TORRICELLI. The Clerk will report the vote.

The CLERK. The vote is seven aye, zero nay.

Mr. TORRICELLI. The resolution is agreed to. Any members with any further business before the subcommittee?

There being no further business, the committee is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 1:20 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

APPENDIX

OPENING STATEMENT
CHAIRMAN ROBERT G. TORRICELLI
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS
MARKUP OF H. CON. RES. 250, ELECTORAL REFORM IN MEXICO
JULY 14, 1994

Good Afternoon and welcome to today's meeting of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere. Today we meet to consider H. Con. Res. 250, a resolution expressing the sense of Congress in support of efforts by the Government of Mexico, and the major political parties and concerned members of civic society in Mexico, to reform Mexico's political and electoral processes and ensure free and fair elections. The resolution was introduced on May 17, by the distinguished Majority Whip, David Bonior, and myself.

The elections in Mexico scheduled for August 21 will be a defining moment in that country's history. Mexico's entry into the North American Free Trade Agreement has solidified its claim to be a modern industrial nation. But the modernization of Mexico can only be half complete as long as it has a political system that still does not assure that it is governing by the consent of the governed.

During the past six months, Mexico has made significant progress in establishing a foundation for free and fair elections. This progress began with an agreement in January among the major political parties to establish rules for cleaning up the voter lists, for election observation, for more equal access to the media and for campaign finance reform.

Since January, the Federal Electoral Board has been strengthened and funding has been provided to institute a high-tech voter registration procedure and methods to conduct spot counts of the vote on election day. Agreement have been reached to allow Mexican non-governmental organizations to join the political parties in observing the elections. Access to media by the opposition has improved.

However, fears of possible election fraud remain strong in Mexico. The largest threat seems to be in the rural areas of the country where a new approach to elections -- on that does not simply validate the PRI -- has not yet been embraced.

To counter that threat, opposition political parties have begun the process of organizing field election observation teams. The United Nations has also begun training poll workers and observers, and an alliance of non-governmental advocacy groups has launched an electoral observation effort. It is crucial that these independent observers receive ample resources and freedom to fulfill their mission.

During a recent trip to Mexico, many Mexicans complained that I had no right to comment on their domestic affairs. To this I answered that nations struggling with democracy should welcome criticism, taking it as a sign of their strength that they can respond and debate their choices openly.

My hope is that the resolution we are considering today will be taken as it is intended -- not as a critique, but as an encouraging word from the United States in support of free and fair elections in Mexico. To eliminate any doubt about my intent, I will offer an en bloc amendment that will remove several clauses from the original resolution that may have been viewed as an effort simply to criticize Mexico for its past.

I have also eliminated a provision from the body of the resolution that calls for full-scale international observation of the election. I am satisfied that the current framework, under which the United Nations will support impartial Mexican observers, will achieve the same objective without posing a threat to the Mexican notion of sovereignty.

What we have before us, then, is a resolution that describes the importance of free and fair elections to the furtherance of a close relationship between the United States and Mexico, and that cites the important progress that has already been made in reforming the electoral process.

The resolved portion of the resolution expresses the support of the Congress for the continued efforts of the Mexican government, its political parties, and civil groups to ensure free and fair elections; urges full implementation of the reforms enumerated in the January Agreement for Peace, Democracy, and Justice; and endorses the efforts of the United Nations to provide technical assistance to domestic observers.

This resolution is offered in the spirit of neighbors looking to improve the community in which we all live. I hope my colleagues will support this resolution and work with me to secure its approval by the full House.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 10 (legislative day, AUGUST 8), 1994

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress in support of efforts by the Government of Mexico, and the major political parties and concerned members of civic society in Mexico, to reform Mexico's political and electoral processes and ensure free and fair elections.

Whereas the United States and Mexico share a common border;

Whereas the people of the United States and the people of Mexico have extensive cultural and historical ties that bind together families and communities across national boundaries;

Whereas a close relationship between the United States and Mexico, based on mutual respect and understanding, is important to the people of both nations;

Whereas the North American Free Trade Agreement, which is designed to increase trade, promote expanded economic activity, and enhance cooperation on issues of mutual interest among the United States, Canada, and Mexico, entered into force on January 1, 1994;

Whereas the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement presents new opportunities for an even closer relationship among the United States, Canada and Mexico;

Whereas this relationship will be furthered by free and fair elections in Mexico on August 21, 1994;

Whereas Mexican leaders from across the political spectrum and representatives of civic society recognized the need for political and electoral reform and have taken steps to achieve these goals;

Whereas recent reforms being implemented in Mexico seek to overcome previous assertions of electoral irregularities which have been highlighted by civil demonstrations and political unrest;

Whereas in January 1994, Mexico's major political parties joined together in an agreement, known as the Agreement for Peace, Democracy, and Justice, designed to reform Mexico's electoral system and to establish procedures for free and fair elections;

Whereas the Federal Electoral Institute has invited representatives of the United Nations to provide technical assistance and financing to domestic Mexican election ob-

servers who request this support to help foster their independence, nonpartisanship, and objectivity; and

Whereas the spirit of the North American Free Trade Agreement facilitates cooperation in achieving high standards of democracy: Now, therefore be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That the Congress—*

3 (1) expresses its support for efforts undertaken
4 by the Government of Mexico, the major political
5 parties, and civic groups to reform Mexico's political
6 and electoral processes and for their ongoing efforts
7 to ensure free and fair elections;

8 (2) welcomes steps taken in recent months by
9 the Mexican Government and the nation's political
10 parties to increase the impartiality of the Federal
11 electoral authorities, review the accuracy of the voter
12 registry list, ensure fair media access, and reform
13 campaign finance practices, in accordance with the
14 commitments enumerated in the January 1994
15 Agreement for Peace, Democracy, and Justice, and
16 encourages continued progress on electoral reform;

17 (3) applauds the invitation extended by the
18 Government of Mexico, with the concurrence of the
19 major political parties and concerned members of
20 civic society, to representatives of the United Na-
21 tions to provide technical assistance and financing to

1 domestic Mexican election observers, and encourages
2 representatives of the United Nations to work closely
3 and directly with Mexican observers during the elec-
4 toral process;

5 (4) takes note of the efforts of the Mexican do-
6 mestic observer groups to encourage citizen partici-
7 pation throughout the electoral process and to con-
8 tribute to the success of this process by serving as
9 monitors during the August 21, 1994, presidential
10 and congressional elections;

11 (5) welcomes the opportunity made available by
12 the Mexican Congress for international visitors to be
13 present during and to witness such elections; and

14 (6) expresses the hope that the efforts of the
15 Government of Mexico, the major political parties,
16 and concerned members of civic society to reform
17 the electoral process will be successful, and lead to
18 elections that are accepted by all parties as fair and
19 valid.

Passed the House of Representatives August 8,
1994

Attest:

DONNALD K. ANDERSON

Clerk

3 de agosto de 1994

103r. CONGRESO
Segundo periodo de sesiones

RES. CON. DE LA CAMARA, NO. 250

Expresando la opinión del Congreso en apoyo de los esfuerzos del Gobierno de México, de los partidos políticos principales y de los miembros interesados de la sociedad civil de México por reformar los procesos políticos y electorales de esa nación y por asegurar elecciones libres e imparciales.

EN LA CAMARA DE REPRESENTANTES

3 de agosto de 1994

RESOLUCION CONCURRENTE

Expresando la opinión del Congreso en apoyo de los esfuerzos del Gobierno de México, de los partidos políticos principales y de los miembros interesados de la sociedad civil de México por reformar los procesos políticos y electorales de esa nación y por asegurar elecciones libres e imparciales.

Considerando que Estados Unidos y México comparten una frontera común;

Considerando que el pueblo de los Estados Unidos y el pueblo de México tienen extensos lazos culturales e históricos que vinculan a familias y comunidades de los dos lados de la frontera;

Considerando que una relación estrecha entre Estados Unidos y México, basada en el respeto y en la comprensión mutuos, es importante para los pueblos de las dos naciones;

Considerando que el Tratado de Libre Comercio de América del Norte, que tiene el propósito de aumentar el comercio, de fomentar una mayor actividad económica y de realizar la cooperación en cuestiones de interés mutuo entre Estados Unidos y México, entró en vigor el 10. de enero de 1994;

Considerando que la ejecución del Tratado de Libre Comercio presenta nuevas oportunidades para una relación aun más estrecha entre Estados Unidos y México;

Considerando que tal relación será profundizada por elecciones libres e imparciales en México el 21 de agosto de 1994;

Considerando que los líderes mexicanos de todo el espectro político y representantes de la sociedad civil reconocieron la necesidad de una reforma política y electoral y han dado pasos para lograr esta meta;

Considerando que las recientes reformas que se están realizando en México pretenden subsanar previas aseveraciones de irregularidades electorales que han sido resaltadas por manifestaciones civiles y por conflictividad política;

Considerando que en enero de 1994 los partidos políticos principales de México convinieron en un acuerdo, conocido como el Acuerdo por la Paz, la Democracia y la Justicia, diseñado para reformar el sistema electoral de México y para establecer procedimientos para elecciones libres e imparciales;

Considerando que el Instituto Federal Electoral ha invitado a representantes de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas a proporcionar asistencia técnica y financiamiento a los observadores nacionales de las elecciones mexicanas que requieran esta asistencia para ayudar a fomentar su independencia, imparcialidad política y objetividad; y

Considerando que el espíritu del Tratado de Libre Comercio facilita la cooperación en el logro de altas normas de democracia:

Por lo tanto, resuélvase en la Cámara de Representantes (con el Senado de acuerdo) que el Congreso---

(1) expresa su apoyo a los esfuerzos realizados por el Gobierno de México, los partidos políticos principales y grupos civiles por reformar los procesos políticos y electorales de México y a sus continuos esfuerzos por asegurar elecciones libres e imparciales;

(2) aplaude los pasos dados durante los últimos meses por el Gobierno de México y los partidos políticos nacionales para incrementar la imparcialidad de las autoridades electorales federales, revisar la exactitud del padrón de votantes, asegurar el acceso equitativo a los medios de comunicación masiva y reformar las prácticas financieras de las campañas, de acuerdo con las obligaciones enumeradas en el Acuerdo por la Paz, la Democracia y la Justicia de enero de 1994, y alienta el progreso continuo en las reformas electorales;

(3) aplaude la invitación del Gobierno de México, con la conformidad de los partidos políticos principales y miembros interesados de la sociedad civil, a representantes de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas a proporcionar asistencia técnica y financiamiento a los observadores nacionales de los comicios mexicanos y alienta a los representantes de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas a trabajar estrecha y directamente con los observadores mexicanos durante el proceso electoral;

(4) toma nota de los esfuerzos de los grupos de observadores nacionales por fomentar la participación ciudadana en todo el proceso electoral y por contribuir al éxito de dicho proceso sirviendo de monitores durante las elecciones presidenciales y congresionales a desarrollarse el 21 de agosto de 1994;

(5) aplaude la oportunidad ofrecida por el Congreso de México a los visitantes internacionales para presenciar y ser testigos de dichas elecciones; y

(6) expresa la esperanza de que los esfuerzos del Gobierno de México, de los partidos políticos principales y de los miembros interesados de la sociedad civil por reformar el proceso electoral sean exitosos y conduzcan a elecciones que sean aceptadas por todos los partidos como imparciales y válidas.



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